SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT THE HANDING OVER OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO GHANA UNDER THE FOREST PRESERVATION PROGRAMME

Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources (Hon. Mike Hammah),
Your Excellency, the Japanese Ambassador (H.E. Mr. Naoto Nikai),
Members of the Forestry Commission Board,
Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission (Mr. Samuel Afari Dartey),
Members of the Press, Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

As we are all aware the Japanese Government has granted the Government of Ghana (GOG) an amount of Seven million, Eight Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US$ 7.8m) to embark on a Forest Preservation Programme (FPP).

Under the FPP, the opportunity to strengthen technical knowhow of some core forestry personnel to formulate a comprehensive geographical information system (GIS) to enhance scientific management of our forests is of utmost importance to the people of Ghana. Additionally, it is among the Forestry Commission’s cardinal objectives to seek sustainable internally generated funds (IGF) to be able to fully exercise our mandate. It is therefore gratifying to mention that capacity building under the FPP would enable the FC to access benefits from Reducing Emission, Degradation and Deforestation (REDD+) and other emerging financial mechanisms.
The Forest Preservation Programme comprises seven key components including:

1. Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)
2. Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
3. Forest Inventory System (FIS)
4. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data analysis
5. Carbon Estimation through establishment of reference levels and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system
6. GIS website construction
7. Capacity Building

In order to achieve the deliverables under the programme, the following items and equipments have been procured:

1. Thirty (30) Nissan pickups with spare parts,
2. Three Nissan Patrols,
3. One hundred and ninety (190) motorbikes with spare parts,
4. Twenty years time series satellite imagery for Ghana,
5. Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing Laboratory Equipments (GIS/RS),
6. Spectrophometer carbon and other gas analyzers,
7. Plotters,
8. Forest Inventory Equipments,
9. Survey Equipments,
10. LiDAR Data, and
11. Work stations,

On the occasion of the official handing over ceremony of these tools and equipment by His Excellency the High Commissioner of the Peoples Republic of Japan to the Government of Ghana, permit me
to express my sincere gratitude to the people of Japan who in spite of extreme difficulties continue to show great affection for Ghana.

As the Chairman for the occasion, I wish to assure the People of Japan that their kind gesture would go a long way in contributing towards leaving future generations and their communities with a richer, better and more valuable forest and wildlife resources.

THANK YOU